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# Country programme document for Lesotho (2019-2023)

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## I. Programme rationale

1. Lesotho is landlocked and classified as a lower middle-income country. Between 2011 and 2015,[1] it achieved average economic growth of 4.5 per cent and its gross national income per capita increased from $630 to $1,270, owing to the Government's commitment to fiscal consolidation, economic growth diversification, infrastructure and human development. By 2015 Lesotho had significantly improved literacy rates (98.6 per cent for girls and 90.6 per cent for boys) and the percentage of women in Parliament increased from 17 per cent in 2003 to 25 per cent in 2015.[2] Lesotho improved its ranking in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index from 153 in 2012 to 104 in 2018.

2. Despite this progress, poverty, unemployment and inequalities have persisted. Lesotho is ranked among the least development countries with a Human Development Index of 0.497, ranking 160 of 188 countries.[3] About 57.1 per cent of Lesotho's estimated 2 million people[4] live below the national poverty line and 34 per cent below the food poverty line of 138 maloti ($10.30) per adult per month.[5] Inequality has increased from a Gini coefficient of 0.51 (2003) to 0.549 (2016)[6] when adjusted for gender inequalities, placing it among the 10 most unequal countries in the world. Unemployment is estimated at 32.8 per cent and is higher among females (39.7 per cent) and youth (32.3 per cent) compared to males (26.2 per cent).[7] HIV prevalence is estimated at 25 per cent and is highest among women aged 15–49 years at 29.7 per cent.[8] Politically, Lesotho's 51 years of independence have been marked by cyclic instability, insecurity and fractious politics. While the Ibrahim Index of African Governance ranked Lesotho 15 of 54 countries in 2017 with a score of 58.2, the collapse of two successive coalition Governments and three national elections between 2012 and 2017 demonstrate the extent of Lesotho's political volatility. From 2014 to 2017, Lesotho's ranking on the Corruption Perceptions Index slipped from 55 to 74 out of 180 countries. The political crisis in Lesotho has placed the country on the agenda of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) over the years. The current Government came to power in June 2017, with a commitment to implementing various SADC recommendations including reforming the Constitution, Parliament, the security and justice sectors and the public service, which are key for Lesotho's long-term stability and economic transformation.

3. On gender equality, Lesotho is ranked among the top 10 best performing countries in Africa.[9] However, its ranking on the Global Gender Gap Index dropped from 16 in 2013 to 73 in 2017, due to widening gaps in women's political, economic and labour participation. The greatest representation of women in governance is in local government (49 per cent in 2017). Social exclusion is highest among people with disabilities, of whom only 3 per cent are employed and who have no political representation.[10]

4. Lesotho is vulnerable to effects of extreme climatic conditions characterized by droughts, floods, frosts, hail and snowstorms. Climatic changes are evidenced by increasingly warmer conditions and lower rainfall, with significant implications for agriculture, food security, poverty and vulnerability, as the sector accounts for the livelihoods of 70 per cent of the of population.[11]

5. Increased use of natural resources for farming, grazing and fuel has resulted in a high degree of environmental degradation and economic and governance challenges. Lesotho has 18.9 per cent arable land and one of the lowest forest coverage rates in Africa. Land classified as degraded

[1] World Bank, Lesotho Systematic Country Diagnostic, 2016.
[2] Lesotho Millennium Development Goal Report, 2015.
[3] UNDP, Human Development Report 2016.
[4] Lesotho Population Census 2016.
[5] United Nations Lesotho, Common Country Analysis 2017
[6] UNDP, Human Development Report 2016
[7] Lesotho Bureau of Statistics, 2014.
[8] Ministry of Health/Lesotho and ICF International. 2016. Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey 2014.
[9] Africa Gender Equality Index, 2015.
[10] Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled, 2010.
[11] Government of Lesotho, Country Diagnosis Report, 2017

accounts for 14.9 per cent of total area.[12] Annual depletion of natural resources is estimated at 4.6 per cent of gross national income and the country loses at least 2 per cent of its topsoil annually due to erosion.

6. Lesotho's energy balance reflects heavy reliance on biomass fuels for basic energy needs, especially in rural areas, and on imported fossil fuels for other household, transportation and industrial purposes.[13] The overall household electrification rate is 34 per cent, with 36 per cent in urban and peri-urban areas and 8.65 per cent in rural areas. The potential for renewable energy resources such as wind, hydropower and solar remains largely untapped.

7. Lesotho has undertaken a systematic mapping to align the Sustainable Development Goals to the thematic pillars of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDPII) 2018/19—2022/23, to advance sectoral linkages and integration of the Goals into the national agenda. However, due to weak sectoral coordination, limited evidential analysis and data, national prioritization and mainstreaming of the targets and indicators for the Goals have not been concluded.

8. UNDP is acknowledged as a partner of choice for programme and resource management.[14] The midterm evaluations of the 2013-2018 country programme components[15] found that UNDP made significant contributions towards: (a) the acceleration of inclusive growth; (b) sustainable and sound environmental management; and (c) governance and accountable institutions.

9. The evaluation found that UNDP support to accelerated inclusive growth, through enhancing business registration processes, access to finance and development of key sectoral policies, contributed to an improved business environment and competitiveness. In collaboration with the Government and private sector, UNDP piloted projects on inclusive finance and entrepreneurship development which contributed to heightened awareness of the need for inclusive private sector development, particularly targeting women and youth. Facilitation of grants for start-up loans for entrepreneurs and women-led community groups enabled employment and income generation.

10. UNDP assistance to sustainable and sound environmental management emphasized strategies and interventions promoting adaptation to climate change and increased resilience; conservation of natural resources to secure livelihoods; and better management of risks associated with natural disasters. A National Strategic Resilience Framework has been developed in partnership with United Nations agencies and the Government to enable Lesotho to address the multifaceted challenges posed by climate-induced shocks. Additional funding mobilized through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) enabled Lesotho to scale up community interventions towards climate change adaptation and improve environmental and natural resource management. Investments in renewable energy and range and environmental management contributed to improved livelihoods, productivity and food security.

11. The evaluation of the governance and accountable institutions component noted that significant milestones were attained through support to governance institutions and legislative and policy environment. Capacity-building of the Independent Electoral Commission enabled Lesotho to hold two snap national elections in 2015 and 2017, both hailed by observers as transparent, free and fair. A joint programme with the United Nations Capital Development Fund on strengthening the capacity of local governments enabled the transfer of functions from central to local governments and the provision of basic social services to communities. The country also improved mechanisms for preventing and combatting corruption through the development and implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan. The legal environment assessment for HIV and AIDS strengthened the national response to HIV/AIDS. With UNDP support, the Government developed a comprehensive National Reforms Framework and Roadmap to guide restructuring aimed at

[12] UNDP, Lesotho National Human Development Report, 2015.
[13] Lesotho Energy Policy, 2015-2025.
[14] UNDP Partnership Survey 2017
[15] https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/units/122

transforming Lesotho into a peaceful, stable and prosperous country.

12. With nearly 20,000 responses to the My World Survey and a country-wide civil society-led consultation, Lesotho had one of the most participatory consultations for the post-2015 agenda. These processes enabled generation of evidence for policy decisions, reprioritization of unachieved Millennium Development Goals and promoted awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals. Support to studies such as the Lesotho National Human Development Report[16] facilitated knowledge creation and development of strategic options for inclusive and gender-sensitive economic development. The ongoing capacity-building support to the national statistics system aims to improve the availability and use of data for effective policymaking, planning and reporting.

13. The midterm evaluations attributed challenges in the effective delivery of the country programme to political instability and uncertainty and the politicization of the public service. In response, UNDP is supporting comprehensive national reforms in partnership with national stakeholders, United Nations agencies and regional and international partners. This is in line with the Common Country Assessment's finding that UNDP has a comparative advantage in the areas of poverty reduction, conflict resolution, understanding development frameworks and mobilizing partners and stakeholders around issues of inclusive economic growth, security and environmental protection.

## II. Programme priorities and partnerships

14. The proposed country programme 2019-2023 is informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, anchored on the draft NSDP II and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2019–2023 and guided by the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. The draft NSDP II prioritizes promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and private sector-led job creation to address challenges of political instability, persistent poverty, non-inclusive economic growth and inequality. The UNDP programme is structured around three pillars: (a) governance, accountability, social cohesion and stability; (b) sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and (c) environmental sustainability, climate change and resilience. The programme will leverage synergies with other United Nations agencies and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

15. Political stability, strong and accountable institutions and effective legislative and governance systems are prerequisites for inclusive socioeconomic and political transformation, sustainable livelihoods and resilience. The programme therefore proposes an issue-based approach, focusing on solutions with substantive multiplier effects, and emphasizes engagement at local and national levels to maximize impact. The programme further advocates the development of a human rights-based policy and legal environment and strategies relevant to the national context and capacities. To strengthen its position as a thought leader on development, UNDP will establish a multi-year research agenda and utilize corporate Sustainable Development Goal tools to expand knowledge and evidence for policy formulation, planning and implementation.

16. The programme builds on past lessons and pilots and balances policy-level initiatives with concrete interventions to create solutions to national development challenges. In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, the programme will enhance the inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities in Lesotho's socioeconomic and political processes by catalysing innovations, South–South and triangular cooperation and sharing corporate best practices. UNDP will leverage its partnerships with the Government and cultivate new partnerships with donors, civil society, the private sector, media and academia for programme sustainability.

**Governance, accountability, social cohesion and stability**

17. This programme pillar is aligned to signature solution 2 of the UNDP Strategic Plan, strengthen effective, inclusive and accountable governance, and is expected to enhance good governance, social accountability and cohesion.

[16] UNDP, Lesotho Human Development Report 2015.

18. The first component focuses on supporting the implementation of inclusive national reforms of the political and constitutional systems including Parliament and the security, justice and public sectors. With funding from the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, UNDP will support the organization of dialogues on the reforms and national reconciliation. In collaboration with SADC, the European Union, the Commonwealth Secretariat, other United Nations agencies and international partners, UNDP will draw on its global expertise and South-South partnerships to provide technical support and promote innovation, public participation and inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities. UNDP will continue to support capacity-strengthening for religious leaders, civil society, media and academia for improved facilitation, advocacy and engagement in national processes.

19. Secondly, working with government and faith-based organizations, UNDP will support the consolidation of national and local capacities for dialogue, peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Complementary to ongoing support to district peace committees, efforts will target districts with a history of violent conflict to strengthen preventive and response capacities with deliberate focus on the inclusion and capacity of women and youth in mediation and community reconciliation processes.

20. Thirdly, working with the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and women-led civil society organizations, UNDP will support organized women's groups on issues such as national reforms, peacebuilding, conflict management, leadership, governance, gender and human rights. It will support the Lesotho Parliamentary Women's Caucus and advocacy for domestication of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and other protocols to bridge the gender gap. UNDP will develop a youth-focused coordination and planning mechanism to support implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and related development programmes to enhance the voice and participation of youth in socioeconomic and political processes.

21. Finally, UNDP will support key human rights and governance institutions to promote inclusion, transparency, accountability and access to justice. In partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP will provide technical support and capacity-building towards the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission that is compliant with the Paris Principles and support Lesotho's reporting on international conventions on human rights. UNDP will support the implementation of the recommendations of the assessment of the legal environment on HIV/AIDS and the National Action Plan on Women, Girls and HIV and AIDS. In collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation, UNDP will promote social accountability and civic participation through voter and civic education and, with other United Nations agencies, the European Union and the Commonwealth Secretariat, support capacity-building of the public service. Ongoing support to anti-corruption initiatives will be scaled up.

**Sustainable and inclusive economic growth**

22. In line with signature solution 1 of the UNDP Strategic Plan, keeping people out of poverty and inclusive economic growth, this pillar addresses poverty, inequality and limited opportunities for employment and livelihoods, especially among women, youth and persons with disabilities. Lesotho recognizes agriculture, manufacturing, technology, tourism and creative industries as key drivers for growth and employment. UNDP will promote economic participation, for women, persons with disabilities and youth in these sectors to foster social inclusion and equity and reduce dependence on the national Social Protection Scheme. UNDP best practices, South-South cooperation and business models will be adopted to promote collaborative platforms towards inclusive growth.

23. Priority will be to support government capacities for evidence-based policymaking, analysis, planning, monitoring and reporting by facilitating the availability of disability-disaggregated data and statistics utilizing the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of disability questions. The UNDP multi-year research agenda will contribute to policymaking through policy and issue briefs, national Sustainable Development Goal and human development reports and analysis of the national multidimensional poverty index. Complementary to the ongoing partnership with the World

Bank, European Union, United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund on capacity-building for data literacy and use, UNDP will promote innovations and coordination for generation, access to and use of data.

24. As an integrator, UNDP will create platforms that draw on the capacities of United Nations agencies in areas beyond its comparative advantage, facilitate coordinated technical assistance and strengthen mechanisms for Sustainable Development Goal implementation, monitoring and reporting, to deliver impact and utilize resources efficiently. UNDP will support the Government to leverage existing and potential financial resources for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda based on the recommendations of the financial resources mapping and development finance assessment exercises.

25. UNDP will complement ongoing efforts of the World Bank and African Development Bank to support a competitive business environment and employment creation through enhanced institutional coordination for private sector development. UNDP will advocate and facilitate the institution of the United Nations Global Compact and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for a responsible business environment and private sector contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. Working with the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation and the public and private sectors, UNDP will promote the reduction of gaps in women's participation and empowerment through the UNDP Gender Seal certification. UNDP will scale up initiatives on inclusive business by promoting access to financial services and inclusive markets for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and facilitate their participation in public-private dialogues.

26. Lastly, through skills development, the programme will support the generation of demand for inclusion, especially among women, youth and persons with disabilities, and promote behaviour change for economic transformation. In partnership with the International Labour Organization, UNDP will support research on market-readiness skills among youth to understand the extent and impact of skills-market mismatch and establish a database on available skills and gaps, to facilitate the introduction of new market-relevant training programmes. UNDP will also pursue South-South cooperation for youth empowerment through the YouthConnekt Initiative and with UNDP Lebanon to foster opportunity-seeking behaviour through innovation, technology and information spaces, promoting entrepreneurship and networking. Support to the Ministry of Small Business Development, Cooperatives and Marketing will also be scaled up to introduce systems for profiling MSMEs to facilitate partnerships and mentorship for emerging entrepreneurs.

**Environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change**

27. This pillar is aligned to signature solutions 3, 4 and 5 of the UNDP Strategic Plan: enhance national prevention and recovery capacities for resilient societies; promote nature-based solutions for a sustainable planet; and close the energy gap. UNDP will work with the Government to implement the National Strategic Resilience Framework in a gender-responsive and risk-informed manner. The programme will focus on scaling up and replicating piloted sustainable land management models and best practices to support community groups, women, persons with disabilities and youth in regions that are highly susceptible to climate change impacts, environmental hazards and land degradation.

28. Based on the findings of the study on the socioeconomic impacts of climate change, the programme will adopt the integration of rangeland management and rehabilitation, sustainable use of biomass and promotion of hydro, wind and solar for energy generation. UNDP will maintain ongoing partnerships with GEF and other United Nations agencies to scale up and strengthen capacities for implementation of integrated water catchment management programmes, focusing on ecological zones most affected by land and environmental degradation. UNDP will partner with the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation, Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture, and community-based organizations to mainstream climate change in national and local strategies and policies and build synergies with the work of the European Union on climate change.

29. The midterm evaluation of the programme component on environmental sustainability recommended the utilization of decentralization structures to promote stewardship and strengthen

capacities for range management and enforcement of related laws. Building on ongoing initiatives, the programme will be delivered through empowering local farmer and grazing associations to implement sustainable natural resource management practices and reduce their vulnerability to disasters and climate change. Eco-friendly and climate-smart technologies and capacities will be introduced to stimulate diversification of livelihoods and enhance household food security and incomes.

30. As a key player in the renewable energy sector, UNDP has supported collection and analysis of energy consumption data needed for effective planning and programming. In alignment with signature solution 5 of the UNDP Strategic Plan, close the energy gap, UNDP will support implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative for the development and promotion of market-driven and affordable solutions and private sector participation in the delivery of renewable energy technologies. The programme will support the Ministry of Energy to develop relevant legal and policy frameworks to promote private sector investments in renewable energy. UNDP will collaborate with academic and private sector institutions to promote research, innovations and knowledge on renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies.

## III. Programme and risk management

31. This country programme document outlines UNDP contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to the country programme are prescribed in the programme and operations policies and procedures and the internal control framework.

32. National implementation will be the default modality for the programme. However, in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with the Government and UNDP headquarters, direct implementation will be used to safeguard and ensure UNDP accountability. The harmonized approach to cash transfers will be used in a coordinated fashion with other agencies to manage risks. As per Executive Board decision 2013/9, cost definitions and classification for programme and development effectiveness will be charged to the concerned projects. Regular project and management audits and spot checks will be carried out to ensure efficiency of internal controls and accountability.

33. UNDP will work closely with the Ministry of Development Planning as the interlocutor for development programmes in the country, other United Nations agencies and development partners in delivering the programme in line with the Lesotho Partnership Policy to ensure sustainability and continuity of UNDP interventions. UNDP will further leverage its internal business processes and capacities to deepen and establish broad-based partnerships, including engagement of potential and non-traditional donors and expansion of South–South and triangular cooperation.

34. In tandem with the planned national reforms, the programme will build capacities of middle managers in key partner institutions to facilitate smooth transitioning between governments to safeguard continuity of programmes and reduce risks associated with political instability and frequent changes in government. UNDP will continuously scan the horizon, update the programme risk profile and utilize internal programme management structures and independent reviews for programme and operational stability and adjustments.

35. As a partner of choice in programme and resources management UNDP will strengthen capacities for joint development planning, monitoring and partnerships required for national development. UNDP will explore with the Government the possibility of supporting the delivery of under-performing loans from international financial institutions. UNDP will develop new partnership strategies aligned to the Lesotho Partnership Policy and broaden its partnerships with civil society, the private sector, academia, United Nations agencies, other development partners and community-based groups for maximum impact.

36. Lesotho's lower middle-income status, limited donor presence and donors' continued conditioning of assistance on good governance could undermine resource mobilization efforts. While

supporting national reforms as a remedy to the country's governance challenges, UNDP will also seek to mobilize funding from bilateral and thematic trust funds with a focus on multi-year funding to ensure predictability and flexibility of resources. UNDP will continue engagement with the Government to mobilize resources from GEF and other sources to address the country's environmental and climate change challenges.

37. To enhance national ownership of the programme, stakeholder who were engaged in the UNDAF and country programme development processes will be maintained to enhance stakeholder inputs into the programme and alignment to national priorities.

## IV. Monitoring and evaluation

38. In line with the UNDP evaluation policy, 5 per cent[17] of programme resources will be allocated for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and will ensure systematic collection of disaggregated data to enrich the evidence and analysis underpinning programmes, and to fill the data gaps that impede effective targeting. The UNDP gender marker will be consistently used to monitor expenditures and improve gender-based planning and decision-making. Stakeholder participation will be promoted through joint field visits, programme reviews and participation in project board and technical working groups.

39. In alignment with the UNDAF, UNDP will use national data sources for reporting while strengthening internal M&E capacities to enhance evidence-based management, programme effectiveness and sustainability. UNDP will further strengthen internal processes for M&E to improve attributability of results, learning and inform programme adjustments. The UNDP M&E plan will be used to strengthen communication for results and facilitate advocacy for programme support, policy dialogues and thought leadership. Programme outputs will be monitored on a quarterly basis and outcomes on an annual basis and validated through a joint annual review with stakeholders. The programme will undertake thematic and project evaluations throughout the programme cycle, and a midterm programme evaluation will be conducted after three years of implementation.

40. UNDP will contribute to United Nations efforts to improve accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in "Delivering as One" through leading and participation in UNDAF pillars and collaborating with other United Nations agencies.

[17] The costed evaluation plan accounts for 2 per cent of the resources and 3 per cent will be utilized for monitoring and programme assurance activities.

## Annex. Results and resources framework for Lesotho (2019–2023)

| **NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL:** Strengthening governance and accountability systems | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **UNDAF OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP #1:** By 2023, government and non-governmental institutions deliver their mandates and uphold good governance, rule of law, and human rights, with all people having improved access to justice and participating in social and political decision-making processes in a peaceful environment.' | | | | **Sustainable Development Goals:** 5,10,16,17 |
| **RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME:** Outcome 2: Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development | | | | |
| **UNDAF outcome indicator(s), baselines, target(s)** | **Data source and frequency of data collection, and responsibilities** | **Indicative country programme outputs (*including indicators, baselines targets*)** | **Major partners / partnerships frameworks** | **Indicative resources by outcome ($)** |
| 1.1: Proportion of seats held by women in the (a) National Assembly and (b) local government<br><br>Baseline: (a) 24 (2017); (b) 47<br>Target: (a) 30; (b) 50 | National Assembly<br><br>Every 5 years | **1.1 Capacities of government and national stakeholders strengthened to undertake and sustain gender-responsive, inclusive and participatory institutional and governance reforms processes**<br><br>1.1.1 Proportion of reform recommendations addressing persons with disabilities, women's empowerment and gender equality (a) adopted and (b) implemented<br><br>**Baseline:** (a) 0; (b) 0<br>**Target:** (a) 30%; (b) 5%<br>**Data source:** Parliament<br>**Frequency:** Annual<br><br>1.1.2. Proportion of women participating in sessions of dialogue on reforms at (a) national and (b) community levels.<br><br>**Baseline:** (a) 0; (b) 0<br>**Target:** (a) 30%; (b) 30%<br>**Data source:** National Dialogue project reports,<br>**Frequency:** Annual<br><br>**1.2. Constitution-making, electoral and parliamentary processes and institutions strengthened to promote inclusion, transparency and accountability**<br><br>1.2.1: Women's participation in elections:<br>(a) Proportion of women in the voter registry<br>(b) Proportion of women on the governing mechanism of the electoral management body<br>(c) Benefiting from Temporary Special Measures to ensure women's participation and representation | Office of the Prime Minister;<br>SADC;<br>Peacebuilding Support Office;<br>National Assembly;<br>Ministry of Law and Constitutional Affairs;<br>Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs,<br>Ministry of Public Service;<br>Lesotho Council of NGOs;<br>Christian Council of Lesotho;<br>Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences;<br>European Union;<br>UN-Women;<br>Commonwealth Secretariat; | **Regular:**<br>**$1, 859,000**<br><br>**Other:**<br>**$3,935,000** |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Baseline:** (a) 56%; (b) 56%; (c) 21<br>**Target:** (a) 56%; (b) 56%; (c) 25<br>**Data source:** Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)<br>**Frequency:** Every five years<br><br>1.2.2. Number of (a) national and (b) local elections judged free and fair by independent observer<br>**Baseline:** (a) 3; (b) 2<br>**Target:** (a) 1; (b) 1<br>**Data source:** IEC<br>**Frequency:** Every five years | | |
| 1.2. Lesotho's ranking on the Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index<br><br>Baseline: 56 (2017)<br>Target: 40 | Economist Intelligence Unit,<br><br>Annual<br>Ministry of Law and Constitutional Affairs | **1.3. Civil society and citizen have strengthened technical capacities for advocacy, public participation, oversight and social accountability**<br><br>1.3.1. Number of (a) citizen forums and (b) proposals on reforms and good governance facilitated by non-State actors<br><br>**Baseline:** (a) 0; (b) 0;<br>**Target:** (a) 10; (b) 5<br>**Data source:** CSOs, media<br>**Frequency:** Annual<br><br>1.3.2. Number of parliamentary hearings and committee meetings triggered by the Private Members Bill through public participation processes.<br>**Baseline:** 0;<br>**Target:** 2<br>**Data source:** Parliamentary Committee Reports<br>**Frequency:** Annual | | |
| | | **1.4. Capacities of CSOs, communities and institutions at national and local level strengthened for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and social cohesion**<br><br>1.4.1. Extent[18] to which there are data-informed mechanisms[19] in place to strengthen social cohesion and prevent risk of conflict<br><br>**Baseline:** 1 (2016); | | |

[18] Scale: 0 – None, 1 – Minimal, 2 – Moderate, 3 – Largely; 4 – Fully
[19] Development policies, plans, strategies and institutions

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Target:** 3<br>**Data source:** Ministry of Development Planning<br>**Frequency:** Annual<br><br>**1.4.2.** Percentage of peace committees that integrate gender consideration in their negotiations<br><br>**Baseline:** 0; **Target:** 25%<br>**Data source:** Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace;<br>**Frequency:** Annual | | |
| 1.3. Existence of an independent national human rights institution<br><br>Baseline: No<br>Target: Yes | Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Correctional Services; universal periodic review;<br><br>Annual | **1.5. Rule of law and national human rights institutions and systems have strengthened technical capacities to promote inclusion, transparency and accountability**<br><br>1.5.1. Percentage of human rights treaty bodies State Party reports completed and submitted<br><br>**Baseline:** 22%<br>**Target:** 56%<br>**Data source:** OHCHR, Government of Lesotho<br>**Frequency:** Annual<br><br>1.5.2. Existence of effective measures adopted to mitigate and remedy corruption risks at: (a) national level, (b) subnational level, (c) sector levels<br><br>**Baseline:** (a) 3 (2017); (b) 0; (c) 0;<br>**Target:** (a) 4; (b) 4; (c) 3<br>**Data source:** Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offence<br>**Frequency:** Annual | | |
| **NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL:** Enhancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth and private sector-led job creation | | | | |
| **UNDAF OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP #3.1:** Outcome 3.1: By 2023, government and private sector increase opportunities for inclusive and sustainable economic growth, improved food security, and decent work, especially for women, youth and persons with disabilities | | | | **Sustainable Development Goals:** 1,2,5,8,9,10,17 |
| **RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME**: Outcome 1: Advance poverty reduction in all its forms and dimensions | | | | |
| 2.1: Average annual earnings of female and male employees | Bureau of Statistics<br><br>Annual | **2.1. National and local level institutions have enhanced technical capacities to coordinate and facilitate effective planning, implementation, analysis and national reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals using innovative and data driven-solutions** | Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Development Planning; Bureau of Statistics; | **Regular: $1,490,000**<br>**Other: $5,464,000** |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baseline: Men $288 Women $208 (2008)<br>Target: Men $288; Women $224 | | **2.1.1.** Extent to which development plans and budgets integrate international agreements across the whole-of-government[1]:<br>(a) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<br>(b) Paris Agreement<br>(c) African Union Agenda 2063<br><br>**Baseline:** (a) 1; (b) 0; (c) 1<br>**Target:** (a) 3; (b) 3; (c) 3<br>**Data source:** Ministry of Development Planning;<br>**Frequency:** Annual<br><br>**2.1.2.** Extent to which there are data collection/analysis mechanisms in place providing disaggregated data to monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals:<br>(a) Conventional data collection methods (e.g., surveys)<br>(b) Administrative reporting systems<br>(c) New data sources (e.g., big data)<br><br>**Baseline:** (a) 1; (b) 0 (c)0;<br>**Targets:** (a) 3; (b) 3; (c) 3<br>**Data Source:** Bureau of Statistics; **Frequency:** Annual | Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation;<br>Academia<br>Ministry of Small Business Development, Cooperatives and Marketing;<br>Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry;<br>Private Sector Foundation of Lesotho;<br>Ministry of Trade and Industry;<br>World Bank<br>African Development Bank<br>European Union<br>ILO | |
| 2.2. Proportion of working-age population that have employment in formal and informal sectors (access to decent work), by sex and age<br><br>Baseline: Total 44.1% (2008)<br>Age: 15-24: M:4.9%, W:2.2%<br>Age: 25-34: M:9.5%, W:6.1%<br>Age: 35-64: M:12.1%, W:9.3%<br><br>Target: Total 50.6%<br>Age: 15-24: M:5.9%, W:5.2%<br>Age: 25-34: M:10%, W:7.6%<br>Age: 35-64: M:12.1%, W:9.8% | Labor Force Survey<br><br>Every 5 years<br><br>Bureau of Statistics | **2.2. Capacities of government institutions and private sector improved to create competitive and gender-sensitive business environment and enable effective economic participation of MSMEs**<br><br>2.2.1. Number of gender-sensitive policies/legal frameworks promoting employment creation adopted and implemented<br><br>**Baseline:** 2;<br>**Target:** 5<br>**Data source:** Ministry of Development Planning; **Frequency:** Annual<br><br>2.2.2. Number of MSMEs participating in policy dialogues for private sector development<br><br>**Baseline:** 0;<br>**Target:** 100<br>**Data source:** Ministry of Small Business Development, Cooperatives and Marketing, Basotho Enterprises Development Corporation;<br>**Frequency:** Annual<br><br>2.2.3. Proportion of Gender Seal certification areas for private sector adopted and implemented | | | |

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| | | **Baseline:** 0; **Target:** 20%<br>**Data source:** Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation;<br>**Frequency:** Annual | | |
| 2.4. Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions<br><br>Baseline: 45.9%<br>Target: 40% | National Household Budget Survey<br><br>Every five years<br><br>Bureau of Statistics | **2.3. Capacities of national public and private sector institutions strengthened to promote enterprises development**<br><br>2.3.1. Number of start-up enterprises in priority sectors[20] (a) registered annually (disaggregated by age, sex of owner and sector); and (b) still in business two years after registration<br><br>**Baseline:** (a) TBD; (b) 0;<br>**Target:** (a) 50; (b)10<br>**Data source:** One-stop Business Facilitation Centre<br>**Frequency:** Annual<br><br>2.3.3. Percentage of MSMEs with access to formal financial services: (a) bank; (b) mobile money<br><br>**Baseline:** (a) 48%; (b)TBD<br>**Target:** (a) 55%; (b) TBD<br>**Data source:** FinScope MSME, Central Bank of Lesotho<br>**Frequency**: Annual<br><br>2.3.4. Number of new jobs created through MSMEs disaggregated by (a) gender; and (b) age<br><br>**Baseline:** (a) 2,526 (Women: 1,647, Men: 879) (2017); (b) youth: 37<br>**Target:** (a) 1,000 (Men: 100), Women: 400); (b) youth: 500<br>**Data source:** Project reports; **Frequency:** Annual | | |
| **NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL**: Enhancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth and private sector-led job creation | | | | |
| **UNDAF OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP#3.2**: By 2023, the people of Lesotho use natural resources in a more sustainable manner and the marginalized and most vulnerable are increasingly resilient | | | | **Sustainable Development Goals:** 1,2,5,7,12,13,15, |
| **RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME:** Outcome 3: Strengthening resilience and shocks to crises | | | | |
| 3.1.: Proportion of degraded land<br><br>Baseline: 14.88%<br>Target: 11.88% | FAO<br><br>Annual | **3.1. Capacities of key institutions and sectors at national and local levels enabled to scale-up and enforce rangeland management initiatives for sustainable natural resources management** | Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation, | **Regular: $1,200,000**<br><br>**Other:** |

[20] manufacturing, technology, tourism, agriculture

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| | Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation | 3.1.1. Natural resources that are managed under a sustainable use, conservation, access and benefit-sharing regime:<br>(a) Area of land under protection (hectares)<br>(b) Number of plant species managed and used under access and benefit-sharing regime<br>**Baseline:** (a) 3,637; (b) 0;<br>**Target:** (a) 50,000; (b) 2<br>**Data source:** Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation<br>**Frequency:** Annually<br><br>3.1.2. Number of community groups implementing sustainable land management programmes<br>**Baseline:** 110; **Target:** 200<br>**Data source:** Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation;<br>**Frequency:** Annually<br><br>3.1.3. Number of people benefiting from improved livelihoods interventions supported by UNDP, disaggregated by sex<br>**Baseline:** 2,586 (Women: 1,628, Men: 958)<br>**Target:** 7,000 (Women: 4,407, Men: 2,593)<br>**Data source:** Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation, Ministry of Energy<br>**Frequency:** Annually<br><br>3.1.4. Number of plans and strategies for sustainable rangeland management implemented.<br>**Baseline:** 0; **Target:** 4<br>**Data source:** Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture;<br>**Frequency:** Annually | Ministry of Energy<br>Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture,<br>Ministry of Water Affairs<br>GEF<br>Green Climate Fund<br>European Union<br>Watershed management framework<br><br>National Resilience Framework | **$11,456,000** |
| 3.2: Proportion of land under improved range management<br><br>Baseline:<br>Improved: 52.79% (16,129 km2),<br>Degraded: 15.94% (4,870.17 km2)<br><br>Target: Improved: 55.79% (19,611.74 km2), Poorly managed: 12.94% (27,052.54 km2) | Lesotho Land Cover Atlas<br><br>FAO | **3.2. Low-emission and climate-resilient objectives addressed in national, subnational and sectoral development plans and policies to promote economic diversification and green growth**<br><br>3.2.1 Number of national and local plans and strategies that integrate climate resilient objectives<br>**Baseline**: 4; **Target:** 7<br>**Data source:** Ministry of Energy; **Frequency**: Annually | | |

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| | | 3.2.2: Existence of targets for low emission and/or climate-resilient development in: (a) development plans and strategies; (b) budgets; (c) private sector business plans and strategies<br><br>**Baseline:** (a) No; (b) No; (c) No;<br>**Target:** (a) Yes; (b) Yes; (c)Yes<br>**Data source:** Ministry of Energy<br>**Frequency:** Annual | | |
| 3.3: Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services: (a) energy; and (b) financial services<br><br>Baseline:<br>(a) Total: 27.8%;<br>Urban: 61.5%; Rural: 11.8%<br>(b) Total: 22%,<br><br>Target:<br>(a) Total: 37.8%;<br>Urban: 76.5%; Rural: 16.8%<br>(b) Total: 61%; women: 61% | National Energy Surveys<br><br>Annual<br><br>Ministry of Energy | **3.3. Capacities of national government and private sector strengthened to enable universal access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy**<br><br>**3.3.1:** (i) Number and (ii) Proportion of households using clean and sustainable energy:<br>(a) Women-headed,<br>(b) Persons with disabilities,<br>(c) In rural areas<br><br>**Baseline:**<br>(a) (i) TBD; (ii) TBD;<br>(b) (i) TBD (ii) TBD;<br>(c) (i) 56,246; (ii) 10.47%<br>**Target:**<br>(a) (i) 2,500; (ii) 0.4%<br>(b) (i) TBD; (ii) TBD;<br>(c) (i) 57,246; (ii) 10.65%<br>**Data source:** Energy Survey Report<br>**Frequency:** Annually<br><br>**3.3.2**. Number of off-grid systems promoting and providing access to clean energy.<br><br>**Baseline:** 6;<br>**Target:** 20<br>**Data source:** Energy Survey Report;<br>**Frequency:** Annually | | |